

## FOR MEDIA PLANNING PURPOSES

MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
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### **ADVISORY: Montana PSC to hold roundtable to discuss development of renewable energy projects**

**HELENA, Mont. – May 18, 2016** – The Montana Public Service Commission will hold a public roundtable on **Wednesday, June 1, 2016** to discuss the Commission’s implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (1978), a federal law facilitating development of renewable energy projects. **The roundtable will take place in the Bollinger room at the PSC offices in Helena, and will commence at 1:15 P.M.**

In an effort to encourage development of alternative electricity generating sources, PURPA requires utilities to purchase electricity from qualifying facilities (QFs) at the utility’s “avoided costs” (the cost the utility would have incurred had it supplied the power itself or obtained it from another source).

The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to promote the exchange of information and to inform any future efforts to improve the implementation of PURPA as it relates to qualifying renewable energy facilities with a nameplate capacity of 80 megawatts or less.

Suggested discussion items include:

- Methods for estimating avoided costs
- Standard rate design for small projects
- Market price forecasting methods
- Resource capacity values
- Requirements for creating a “legally enforceable obligation”

The public is encouraged to attend the hearing as the Commission will provide an opportunity for public comment. The roundtable will be live streamed on the PSC's website at:

<http://www.psc.mt.gov/video.asp>

To view comments submitted to the Commission about the investigative docket, visit:

<http://1.usa.gov/1NDfvqf>

**WHAT:** PURPA Implementation Roundtable Discussion

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 1 at 1:15 PM

**WHERE:** The offices of the Commission, 1701 Prospect Ave, Helena

To view the notice of public roundtable, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1USRGjl>

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